

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0672

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY DESIGNATE TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS' COMMENTS ON POLICY REVIEW

REFERENCE: MONTEVIDEO 650

1. I UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FOLLOW-ON FULL DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, BUT WHEN I SAW HIM BRIEFLY AT THE AIRPORT LAST NIGHT (FEB. 16), HE MADE TWO IMPORTANT POINTS WHICH FIT WITH INFORMATION COMING FROM OTHER SOURCES. THESE WERE:

A) REFLECTING SOME DEGREE OF CAUTION SO AS NOT TO OVERSTATE HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT OVERALL HIS CONSULTATION HAD BEEN EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND THAT THE RESULTS WERE POSITIVE. WHILE WE COULD NOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE, DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF THIS CERTAIN THINGS WILL BE DONE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE PROCEDURES WHICH I HAVE SO OFTEN CRITICIZED REGARDING DETENTION AND HOLDING OF SECURITY PRISONERS, AND THEIR ISOLATION FROM CONTACT WITH FAMILY FOR WHAT HAS OFTEN BEEN PROTRACTED PERIODS WILL BE CORRECTED NOW.

B) AS FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, HE SAID NO SPECIFIC DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE BUT THAT THE ISSUE IS UNDER
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CONSIDERATION AND, HE THINKS, MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION. HE SAID THAT THE WHOLLY UNANNOUNCED AND UNCOMMENTED ON VISIT TO WASH-

INGTON LAST WEEK OF AMBASSADOR ALVARO ALVAREZ (DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF FOREIGN POLICY, FONOFF) AND OF AMBASSADOR MARQUES SERE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THEM TO MEET WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE AMBASSADOR IS CLEARLY

HOPEFUL THAT UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS TO STRENGTHEN THE ATTITUDE OF HARDLINERS, THE COMMISSION MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE A ROLE HERE. (FROM OTHERSOURCES WE HAVE HEARD THE SAME BUT WITH INDICATION THAT BEFORE HAVING THE COMMISSION VISIT THEY WISHED TO CORRECT SOME OF PROCEDURES WHICH COULD BE SUBJECT TO CRITICISM.)

2. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS REVIEW, I THINK IT WOULD BE A VERY USEFUL SHOW OF INTEREST IF YOU WERE PERSONALLY TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE URUGUAYAN SITUATION WITH HIM. I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HIS WAS A POSITIVE VOICE DURING THESE CONSULTATIONS AND WHATEVER CAN BE DONE TO BOOST HIS PRESTIGE WOULD BE A USEFUL INPUT. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCE, I HAVE NOTED, TO RECEIVE HIM AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL. WHILE THIS, OF COURSE, IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR MCCH THAT IS ROUTINE, I THINK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MOMENT ENDORSES MY RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU SHOW A PERSONAL INTEREST AT THIS TIME.
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